

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Captain Isaac Paine School
160 Foster Center Road
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, February 28, 2012
Executive Session – 7:30pm
Open Session – 8:00pm

1. **Convene Meeting** – Chair, Kathleen Swanson called the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) to order at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 28, 2012.
 - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present: Kathleen Swanson, Chair, Shelley Pezza, vice Chair, member, Patricia Fountain, arrived at 7:32 pm, Superintendent / Principal Davida Irving, and FSC Secretary, Helena McCullough.
 - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited.
2. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC **voted to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (1) Personnel (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation**
 - a. **(1) Personnel – Superintendent / Principal Contract**
 - b. **(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Arbitration – Educational Support Personnel; Foster Teachers’ Association**Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0. (Mrs. Fountain arrived @ 7:32pm)
3. **Reconvene Open Session** – On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC reconvened to Open Session at 7:57pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to “Seal” the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

At this point Chair, Kathleen Swanson move item #10 on the Agenda to begin:

10. New Business (for discussion/action)

- a. *Superintendent/Principal Contract* – On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC approved the Superintendent /Principal Contract for two years with a pay freeze and sick days to roll over the same as the Foster Teachers’ Contract. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no
- b. *Educational Support Personnel Arbitration* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to table this item. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- c. *Memorandum of Agreement with Foster Teachers' Association on Full Day Kindergarten*
 – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. (Copy of MOA – attached to these minutes) Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.
 Vote as follows:
 Mrs. Swanson – yes
 Ms. Pezza – yes
 Mrs. Fountain – no
- d. *Personnel – Certified Teachers - Non-renewals*
 On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved Dr. Irving's recommendation to non-renew one fifth (1/5) of Sharron Rothberg's employment as the Librarian for the 2012-2013 school year effective July 1, 2012. Discussion followed. Motion passed with regret. Vote = 3-0-0.

 On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved Dr. Irving's recommendation to non-renew one fifth (1/5) of Cathy Santossousso's employment for the 2012-2013 school year, effective July 1, 2012. Discussion followed. Motion passed with regret. Vote = 3-0-0.
- e. *Additions to Art and Music Programs*
 On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved Dr. Irving's recommendation for the employment of Dawn Bergstrom, Art Teacher, to increase her employment for the 2012-2013 school year from three fifths (3/5) to four fifths (4/5), beginning July 1, 2012. Discussion followed. Vote = 3-0-0.

 On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved Dr. Irving's recommendation for the employment of Marge Jones, Music Teacher, to increase her employment for the 2012-2013 school year from three fifths (3/5) to four fifths (4/5), beginning July 1, 2012. Discussion followed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- f. *NECAP Scores* - Dr. Lorraine Bowen presented the NECAP Scores to the FSC.
- g. *Sodexo – Point of Sale* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC tabled this item. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- h. *Resolution to Commissioner of Education requesting to amend the Rhodes Island Model Educator Evaluation System*
 On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC approved Dr. Irving's recommendation of a resolution of the Foster School Department to be sent to the Commissioner of Education as described. Discussion followed. (copy of the Foster School Department Resolution to the Commissioner – attached to these minutes) Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

11. Communication/Reports

- a. *Correspondence* – Dr. Irving read a letter of thanks and appreciation from the Foster Town Council President, Gordon Rogers, concerning the FSC level funding of the school budget for the 2012-2013 school year.
- b. *Superintendent's Report* –

Dr. Irving reported that the Technology Committee is applying for the \$470,000 Technology Grant being offered by the State. The grant will be awarded to one school in the state only. The grant will include the endorsement of the Town as a whole. Dr. Irving reported the use of "Mouseworks" as the school's web-site was an economical decision. The school has out-grown the present server, which needs to be reworked and back up needs to be considered. The grant award, should the school receive it, would help to change and/or upgrade the server. The Building Committee has been meeting monthly and has been discussing some serious concerns, one being the underground heating pipes in the fifth grade wing that were installed when the school was built back in the fifties. Due to the deterioration and costly repairs, engineers have been called in to address the situation and determine plans. Dr. Irving requested the Capital Expense fund be used for the replacement/repairs, but was unsuccessful. Dr. Irving reported that to buy out our contract with Xerox for the lease of two machines currently in use would cost the school department approximately \$34,000. She also reported that she does not have a calculation of the charges for "out-of-district tuition" for non-residential students entering our school system. The state aid for our students would be approximately \$8,300. The cost to educate out of district students would be higher.

- c. Future Agenda Items –*
All tabled items
Capital Project – Heating pipes

The FSC returned to the beginning of the Agenda with item #4, Staff & Student Recognition.

4. **Staff / Student Recognition** – Dr. Irving recognized the entire staff and student body and their NECAP scores.
5. **Public Comment** – none.
6. **Building Use Request** – on a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the request of the PTG as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

7. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the Executive Session Minutes for January 10, 2012 as presented. Motion passed.
Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the Executive Session Minutes of January 24, 2012 as presented. Motion passed.
Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the Open Session Minutes of January 24, 2012 as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the Executive Session Minutes for January 31, 2012 as presented. Motion passed.
Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

8. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Warrant dated January 28, 2012 for \$34,932.60. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC approved the Warrant dated February 15, 2012 for \$191,495.27. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Business Manager's Report – Mr. Moore was present to answer questions from the FSC.

9. Old Business (for discussion/action)

a. Wellness Policy - 2nd Reading – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC approved the second reading of the Wellness Policy. An audience member requested to read the policy, there being none, Mrs. Fountain and Ms. Pezza withdrew their motion and second. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC tabled this item. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

b. Policy #5141.2, Prevention & Crisis Intervention / Physical Restraint for Safety Promotion, 2nd Reading – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC tabled this item. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

12. **Adjournment** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC adjourned at 9:38 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee